

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: CURRENT SL VIEWS ON NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE

1. CONGRESSMAN CHARLES DIGGS CALLED ON DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER LAKSHMAN JAYAKODY JANUARY 20 AND CONVERSATION LARGELY CONCERNED OUTLOOK AND PLANNING FOR AUGUST NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE (NAC) IN SRI LANKA.

2. REVIEWING ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY, JAYAKODY REFERRED TO 17-NATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE, OF WHICH MEMBERSHIP IS SAME AS THAT AT ALGIERS NAC IN SEPT 1973. A COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF UN AMBASSADORS OF THESE COUNTRIES HAS BEEN FUNCTIONING IN NEW YORK FOR SOME TIME UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF ALGERIA, HOST FOR LAST NAC. A PROPOSED AGENDA AND SOME DRAFTS OF PROPOSED DECLARATIONS HAD BEEN TABLED IN THIS GROUP IN NOVEMBER, AND DECISION HAD BEEN MADE TO REFER THEM NOT ONLY TO 17 COUNTRIES BUT TO ALL NAC MEMBER STATES. INDIAN FOREIGN SECRETARY SEWAL SINGH IN VISIT TO COLOMBO ON BILATERAL MATTERS LAST WEEK HAD INDICATED WILLINGNESS OF GOI TO HOST MEETING AT FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL OF 17 COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEMBER COUNTRIES IN NEW DELHI IN APRIL OR MAY, APPARENTLY TO RATIFY PREPARATORY WORK OF THEIR
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AMBASSADORIAL COUNTERPARTS ON NEW YORK. JAYAKODY

EXPRESSED SOME DOUBT AS TO WHETHER SUCH A MEETING IS REALLY NECESSARY OR WILL BE ACCEPTED BY OTHER COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

3. CONFERENCE IN AUGUST WILL TAKE PLACE IN THREE SEPARATE STAGES: PRELIMINARY MEETING AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL (WHETHER OF JUST 17 CC MEMBERS OR OF ENTIRE NAC MEMBERSHCFXWAS NOT SPECIFIED), FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING, CHIEFS OF STATE MEETING. FOLLOWING CONFERENCE, PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE AS HEAD OF HOST GOVERNMENT WOULD BE MANDATED PERSONALLY TO PRESENT DECLARATIONS, RESOLUTIONS, ET AL, OF NAC TO 31ST UNGA IN FALL. THEREAFTER, UNTIL NEXT NAC, SRI LANKA WOULD CARRY BURDEN OF "SECRETARIAT" FUNCTIONS AND CONTROLLING AND STEERING NAC ORGANIZATIONAL MACHINERY (ALTHOUGH NAC HAS HERETOFORE INTENTIONALLY REFRAINED FROM SETTING UP FORMAL SECRETARIAT ORGAN). JAYAKODY REMARKED RUEFULLY THAT PORTION MZ GSL FOREIGN MINISTRY ALLOCATED TO THIS ROLE FROM THEN ON MIGHT FAR OUTNUMBER PERSONNEL HANDLING SL'S OWN MODEST FOREIGN POLICY REQUIREMENTS. GHRM ON SUBSTANCE OF NAC, JAYAKODY FELT THAT TENDENCY OF NAC COUNTRIES TO PAY MORE AND MORE ATTENTION TO ECONOMIC ISSUES WOULD CONTINUE, THROUGH POLITICAL ISSUES ALSO PLAY IMPORTANT PART. ON LATTER, HE SAID OBVIOUSLY FORESEEABLE ONES WOULD BE MIDDLE EAST, ANGOLA, LAW OF SEA AND DEEP SEABEDS, VARIATIONS ON INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE PROPOSAL, DISARMAMENT, DETENTE AFTER HELSINKI, AND DOUBTLESS OTHER ISSUES WHICH WOULD BECOME TOPICAL BY TIME OF CONFERENCE.

5. DIGGS ASKED ALMOST UNANSWERABLE QUESTION OF HOW NON-ALIGNED IS DEFINED FOR PURPOSES OF NAC MEMBERSHIP, IN LIGHT OF INCLUSION OF CUBA, NORTH KOREA, EXCLUSION OF MANY OTHERS. JAYAKODY REPLIED THAT ON KOREANS, GSL HAD FAVORED ADMISSION OF BOTH AT LIMA NAC LAST AUGUST, AND STILL DOES. HOWEVER, CRITERIA WHICH PREVIALED WERE THAT NORTH KOREA DID NOT HAVE FOREIGN TROOPS, FOREIGN BASES AND WAS NOT FORMAL MEMBER OF MILITARY ALLIANCE, WHILE SOUTH KOREA FELL INTO THESE CATEGORIES. BEYOND THAT, DEFINITION CONFIDENTIAL

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OF NON-ALIGNED WAS "COMPLES."

6. ON ADMINISTRATIVE SIDE, JAYAKODY REPEATED OFT-HEARD PREDICTION THAT PERHAPS 4,000 PERSONS EXPECTED IN ATTENDANCE FOR CONFERENCE PERIOD, WITH AS MANY AS 50 TO 60 HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT. HE AGREED WITH DIGGS' SUGGESTION THAT SECURITY WOULD BE MAJOR PROBLEM, AND DID NOT SEEM TO FEEL OVERCONFIDENT OF GSL'S CAPA-

BILITY ON THIS SCORE.
PERKINS

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